

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for use in a distribution network to provide public, educational and governmental (PEG) programming, the method comprising:

providing a PEG channel in a channel lineup for a local area;

providing backdrop programming on the PEG channel;

determining an availability of locally produced PEG programming; and

responsive to determining that the locally produced PEG programming is available and intended for local transmission, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced PEG programming on the PEG channel.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via local public access to the distribution network.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via educational access to the distribution network.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via local governmental access to the distribution network.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network encompasses a plurality of local areas, wherein (PEG) programming is provided on the PEG channel to the local area, and wherein the backdrop programming is provided on PEG channels for multiple local areas.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network includes a video on demand (VOD) platform, the VOD platform including a library of locally produced PEG programming, the method further comprising:

providing locally produced PEG programming on demand with the VOD platform, wherein the locally produced PEG programming on demand is selectable by an end user.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network includes a high speed data (HSD) platform, the HSD platform including a library of locally produced PEG programming, the method further comprising:

providing locally produced PEG programming on demand with the HSD platform, wherein the locally produced PEG programming on demand is selectable by the end user.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A method for use in a distribution network to provide public, educational and governmental (PEG) programming, the method comprising:

providing a PEG channel in the channel lineup for each local area;

providing backdrop programming on each PEG channel;

for each local area having a PEG channel, determining an availability of locally produced PEG programming; and

responsive to determining that the locally produced PEG programming is available and intended for local transmission in a particular local area having the PEG channel, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced PEG programming on the PEG channel in the particular local area.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via local public access to the distribution network.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via educational access to the distribution network.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via local governmental access to the distribution network.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein the backdrop programming is provided on PEG channels for multiple local areas.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein the distribution network includes a video on demand (VOD) platform, the VOD platform including a library of locally produced PEG programming, the method further comprising:

providing locally produced PEG programming on demand with the VOD platform, wherein the locally produced PEG programming on demand is selectable by an end user.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 8 wherein the distribution network includes a high speed data (HSD) platform, the HSD platform including a library of locally produced PEG programming, the method further comprising:

providing locally produced PEG programming on demand with the HSD platform, wherein the locally produced PEG programming is selectable by an end user.

15. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus for signal distribution in a distribution network comprising:

an interface that is configured to receive backdrop programming from a first source and to receive locally produced content from a second source; and

a processing module configured to be connected to the interface and configured to perform:

providing a channel in a channel lineup for a local area;

providing the backdrop programming on the channel from the first source;

determining an availability of the locally produced content from the second source; and

responsive to determining that the locally produced content is available and intended for local transmission, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced content on the channel.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

the interface is configured to connect to a video on demand (VOD) platform, the VOD platform including a library of locally produced programming; and

the processing module is further configured to perform:

providing locally produced programming on demand with the VOD platform, the locally produced programming on demand being selectable by an end user.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

the interface is configured to connect to a high speed data (HSD) platform, the HSD platform including a library of locally produced PEG programming; and

the processing module is further configured to perform:

providing the locally produced PEG programming on demand with the HSD platform, the locally produced PEG programming on demand being selectable by an end user.

18. **(Previously Presented)** A method for use in a distribution network, the method comprising:

providing a channel in a channel lineup for a local area;

providing backdrop programming on the channel;

determining an availability of locally produced programming; and

responsive to determining that the locally produced programming is available and intended for local transmission, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced programming on the channel.

19. **(Previously Presented)** A method for use in a distribution network, the method comprising:

providing a channel in the channel lineup for each local area;

providing backdrop programming on each channel;

for each local area having a channel, determining an availability of locally produced programming; and

responsive to determining that the locally produced programming is available and intended for local transmission in a particular local area having the channel, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced programming on the channel in the particular local area.

20. **(New)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

independently preempting the backdrop programming for a different local area.